

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 EPA-01 DOTE-00 SP-02

USIA-06 AID-05 NSC-05 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04

OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00 PA-01 PRS-01 OES-06 /089 W

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R 120738Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 729

INFO USDEL MTN GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

AGS: ETRD, JA

SUBJECT: AUTO STANDARDS

REF: A) STATE 165003 B) STATE 067596

1. SUMMARY: ON JULY 12, EMBOFFS RECEIVED WRITTEN
REPLY TO OUR AIDE MEMOIRE OF MARCH 22. JAPANESE NOTE

APPEARS FORTHCOMING IN MANY RESPECTS BUT SOME POINTS:
E.G., PARA C RE ACCEPTANCE OF RESULTS OF TESTS DONE
IN U.S. AND PARA D RE DATE OF MANUFACTURE CERTIFI-
CATION WILL OBVIOUSLY REQUIRE FURTHER CLARIFICATION
AND DISCUSSION. RECOMMEND AUGUST 2 AUTO TALKS STILL
BE HELD. END SUMMARY.

2. ON JULY 12 MOFA SECOND N.A. DIV DIR SAITO GAVE
EMBOFFS WRITTEN REPLY TO OUR AIDE MEMOIRE OF MARCH 22
CONTAINING RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS FOR HANDLING
IMPORTED MOTOR VEHICLES. REPLY IN JAPANESE IS NOW
BEING TRANSLATED; HOWEVER, GIST OF GOJ RESPONSE
GARNERED FROM MOFA'S ORAL PRESENTATION FOLLOWS:

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A) "PROVISIONAL APPROVAL" - GOJ REJECTS THIS

CONCEPT SAYING "ALL" CARS MUST BE TESTED AND APPROVED BEFORE SALE.

B) "PUBLISHING OF ALL MANDATORY STANDARDS TO INCLUDE DETAILED PERFORMANCE CRITERIA AND TESTING PROCEDURES". - GOJ WILL MAKE "FURTHER EFFORTS" TO CLARIFY TESTING PROCEDURE AND TO QUANTIFY ALL PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS.

C) "ACCEPTANCE OF TESTING DONE IN THE U.S.". THIS APPEARS TO BE ONE OF THE AREAS WHERE THERE ARE STILL MAJOR DIFFERENCES. THE GOJ HAS EXPRESSED A WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT THE RESULTS OF "MEASURABLE" TESTS DONE IN THE U.S. AS LONG AS JAPANESE TESTING STANDARDS AND TESTING METHODS ARE USED. A U.S. STANDARD CAN BE ACCEPTED IF IT IS EQUIVALENT TO OR HIGHER THAN THE COMPARABLE JAPANESE STANDARD. HOWEVER, "IMPORTANT TESTS" CAN BE CARRIED OUT ONLY IF THE TESTING INSTRUMENTS AND FACILITIES HAVE THE PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE GOJ. TESTING IN THE U.S. IS TO BE CONSIDERED SUPPLEMENTARY TO GOJ TEST REQUIREMENTS AND THE U.S. TEST RESULTS SUBMITTED, IN JAPANESE, AS PART OF THE APPLICATION FOR JAPANESE CLEARANCES. THE GOJ ALSO INDICATED THAT "USG SHOULD ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY CONCERNING TESTING".

D) "APPLICATION OF STANDARDS AS OF DATE OF MANUFACTURE OF VEHICLE" - THE GOJ WILL ACCEPT THIS SO LONG AS THE DATE OF MANUFACTURE IS CERTIFIED BY A RELEVANT USG OR OTHER AGENCY. THE APPROACH PROPOSED IN THE GREGORY LETTER OBVIOUSLY NEEDS MORE EXPLORING.

E) "ADEQUATE OPPORTUNITY FOR INTERESTED U.S. PARTIES TO COMMENT". THE GOJ COMMENTED THAT IT HAS ALWAYS GIVEN THE U.S. MANUFACTURERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT THROUGH JAIA. THE GOJ EXPRESSED ADDITIONAL WILLINGNESS TO LISTEN TO COMMENTS MADE THROUGH THE EMBASSY.

F) "ADVANCE NOTICE". ACCORDING TO SAITO'S EXPLANATION, A STANDARD LENGTH LEAD TIME IS DIFFICULT AS SOME LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STANDARDS CHANGES ARE URGENT OR ISSUED UNDER STRONG SOCIAL PRESSURE. HOWEVER, THE GOJ WILL ENDEAVOR TO GIVE "FULL CONSIDERATION" TO THIS POINT.

3. FULL TEXT OF NOTE IS NOW BEING TRANSLATED AND WILL BE CABLED AS SOON AS RECEIVED.

4. EMBASSY COMMENT: WE BELIEVE GOJ HAS HONESTLY

TRIED TO ANSWER SOME OF OUR CONCERNS IN WHAT PROMISES
TO BE AN ONGOING PROCESS. HOWEVER, MANY POINTS NEED
FURTHER CLARIFICATION AND SOME OF THEM (E.G., C AND D)
REQUIRE SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS,
THEREFORE, THAT AUTO STANDARDS TALKS SCHEDULED FOR
AUGUST 2 BE HELD AS PLANNED.
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